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JULY
NO. 44



CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN

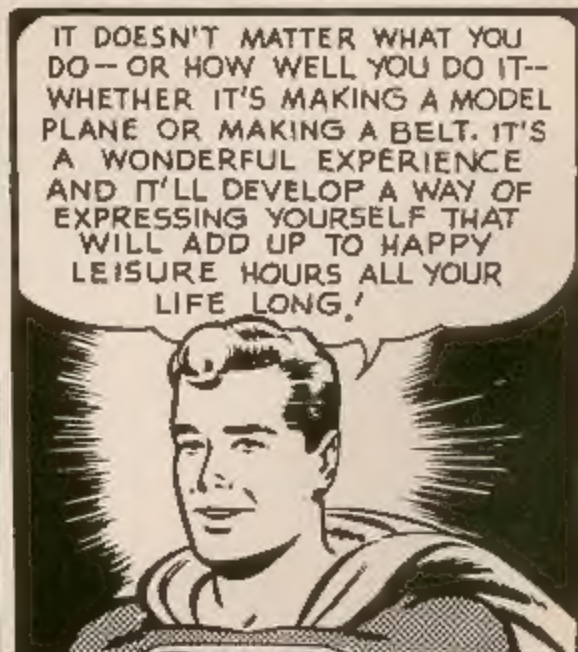
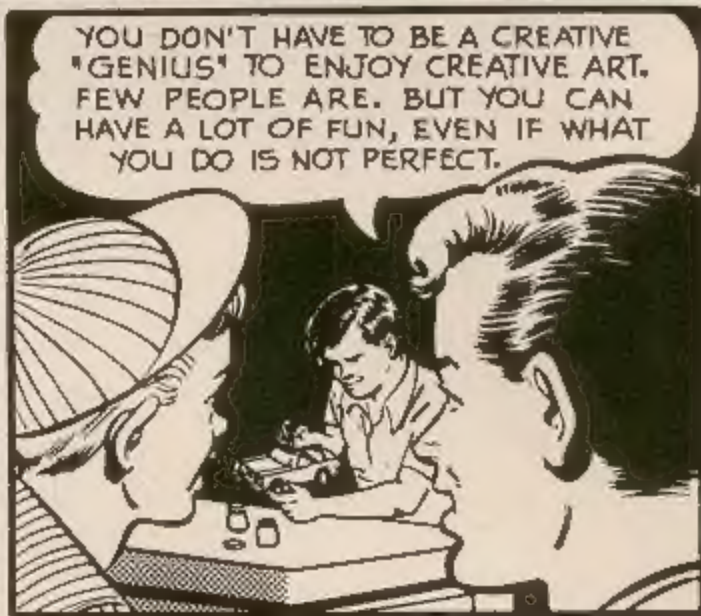


THERE GOES *RED*!
THE *EYE* IS
HYPNOTIZING US
INTO GOING THROUGH
WITH THIS DEADLY
TUG-OF-WAR!



Featuring
**"CURSE
of the
EVIL EYE!"**

SUPERBOY in "HAPPY HOBBY TIME!"



CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN

IT WAITED FOR THE COMMAND OF ITS MASTER-- TO GO OUT AND DESTROY! BUT THE ORDER NEVER CAME, SO IT WAITED... WAITED... FOR 600 YEARS UNTIL BY A QUIRK OF FATE THE CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN FINALLY RELEASED...

the CURSE of the EVIL EYE

THE DEADLY POWER OF THE PHENOMENAL ORB WAS LIMITLESS! IT COULD EMIT...

A SEARING SLASH OF HEAT...

A FLASH OF NUMBING ICICLE-COLD...

A GLANCE OF BLINDING BRILLIANCE...

A BEAM OF STAGGERING ENERGY...

***EDITOR'S NOTE:** YEARS AGO, IN SUPERSTITIOUS OLD SALEM, A CATASTROPHE OFTEN WAS THOUGHT TO BE CAUSED BY THE "CURSE" OF A "WITCH." TODAY, MANY EUROPEANS STILL OBSERVE THE SUPERSTITIONS OF THEIR ANCESTORS BY BLAMING A DISASTER ON A PERSON CONSIDERED TO HAVE AN "EVIL" EYE!

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CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



LIKE A MAN-MADE METEOR, A STRATOLINER STREAKS ON WITH ITS CARGO OF ODDLY-ASSORTED PASSENGERS.



SUDDENLY, A HARRIED TRAVELER RUSHES FROM THE PILOT ROOM AND MAKES A STARTLING PRO-NOUNCEMENT...

I--I'VE JUST FINISHED SPEAKING TO THE CHALLENGERS BY RADIO! IT'S ONLY FAIR THAT I TELL YOU...



...THIS ENTIRE PLANE-- AND EVERYONE ON IT-- IS DOOMED-- BECAUSE OF ME!



WHY IS THIS PLANE MARKED FOR DEATH? HOW DID THE CHALLENGERS BECOME INVOLVED WITH THIS FLYING TARGET? IT STARTED A FEW HOURS BEFORE...

...WHEN THE CHALLENGERS APPROACHED A CRUMBLING RUIN SOMEWHERE IN ITALY...

THAT'S IT, EH, ACE?

YEP-- WHAT'S LEFT OF DRAGIO CASTLE! THE LAST TIME I SAW IT WAS IN WORLD WAR II, WHEN IT WAS STILL INTACT!



"I WAS ALREADY A FLYING ACE-- THAT'S WHY I WAS GIVEN A PRIORITY MISSION..."

OUR INFANTRY IS BEING SPOTTED AND CLOBBERED BY GERMAN ARTILLERY HOLED UP IN THAT CASTLE! MORGAN, I WANT THAT PLACE HIT-- AND HIT HARD!

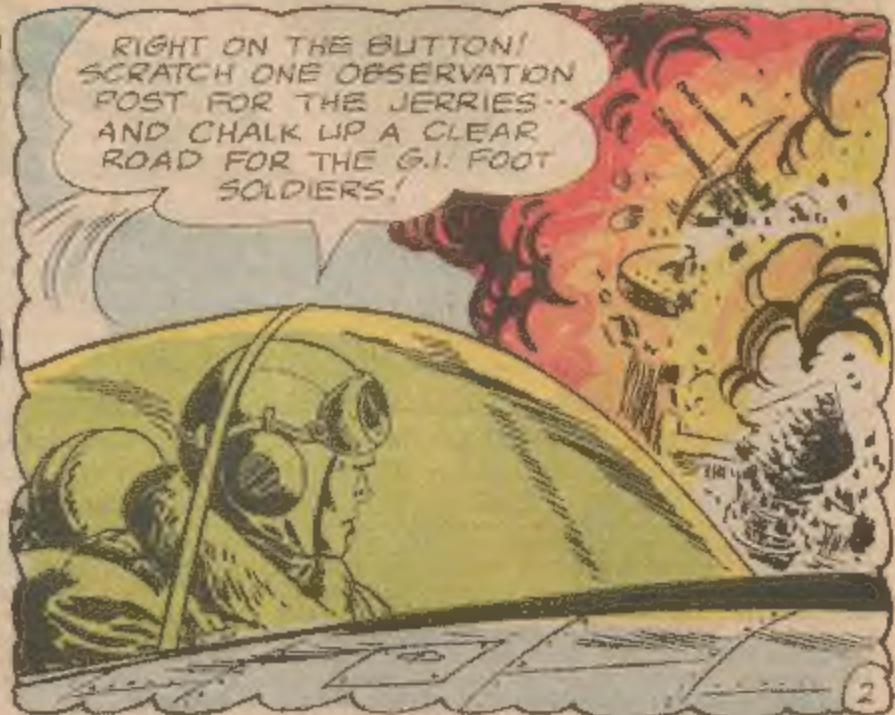


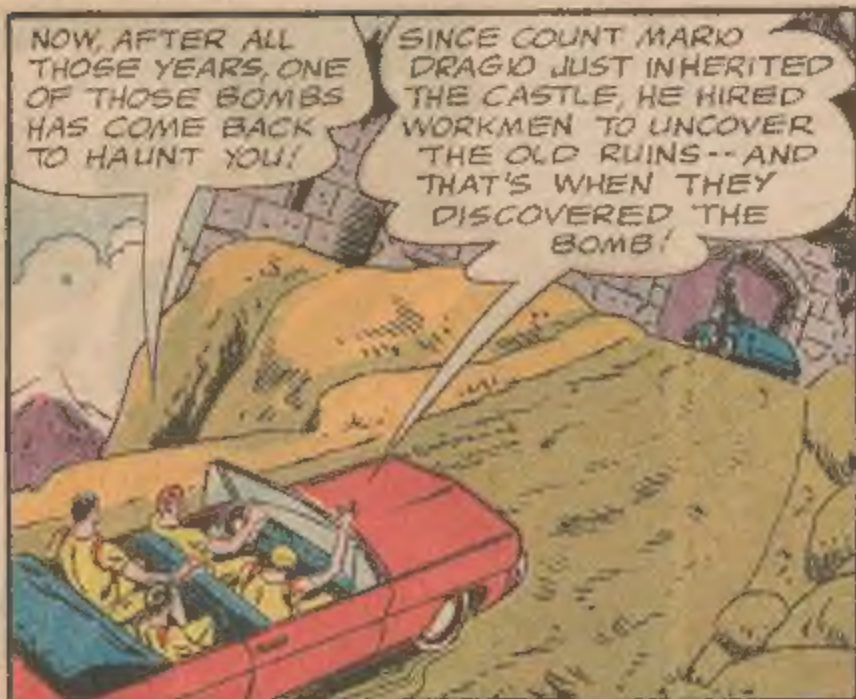
"THE OLD CASTLE HAD LIVED FOR CENTURIES, BUT IT HAD TO DIE SO OUR YOUNG GUYS COULD LIVE..."

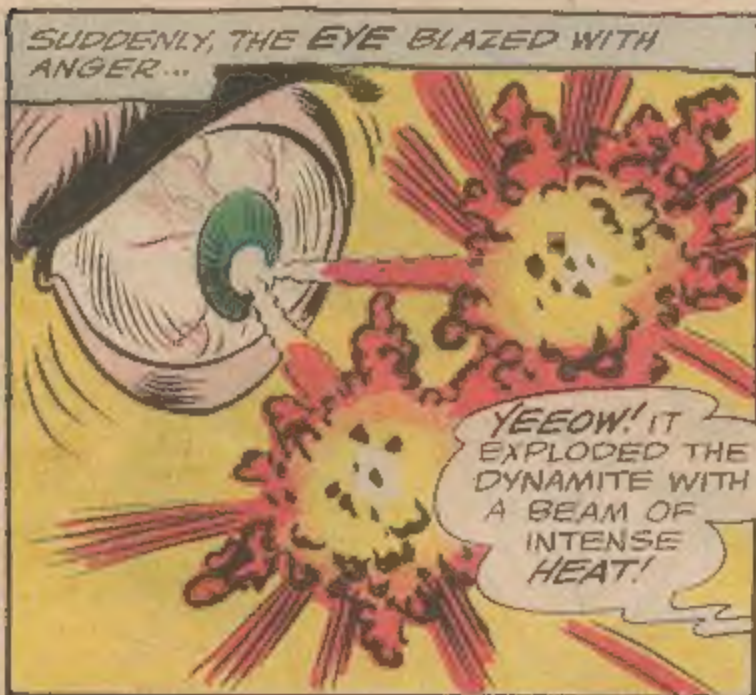
BOMBS AWAY!



RIGHT ON THE BUTTON! SCRATCH ONE OBSERVATION POST FOR THE JERRIES-- AND CHALK UP A CLEAR ROAD FOR THE G.I. FOOT SOLDIERS!









WATCH IT!
IT'S LOOKING
AT US
AGAIN!

AM I
WRONG--
OR IS
THE EYE
GETTING
BRIGHTER?



YOU'RE
RIGHT, PROF!
THAT KOOKIE
KILLER IS
GETTIN'
BRIGHTER!



THAT GLARE--
BLINDING
ME-- CAN'T
SEE!



SOMETHING'S
WRONG WITH MY
PEEPERS! I SEE
EYES-- TINY
EYES...

WE'RE ALL SEEING THEM,
ROCKY! THE TINY "EYES" ARE
AFTER-IMAGES-- SPOTS
BEFORE OUR EYES! THE
SAME THING HAPPENS
WHEN YOU STARE AT
THE SUN TOO LONG...



FINALLY
WHEN
THEIR
SIGHT
RETURNED
TO NORMAL...

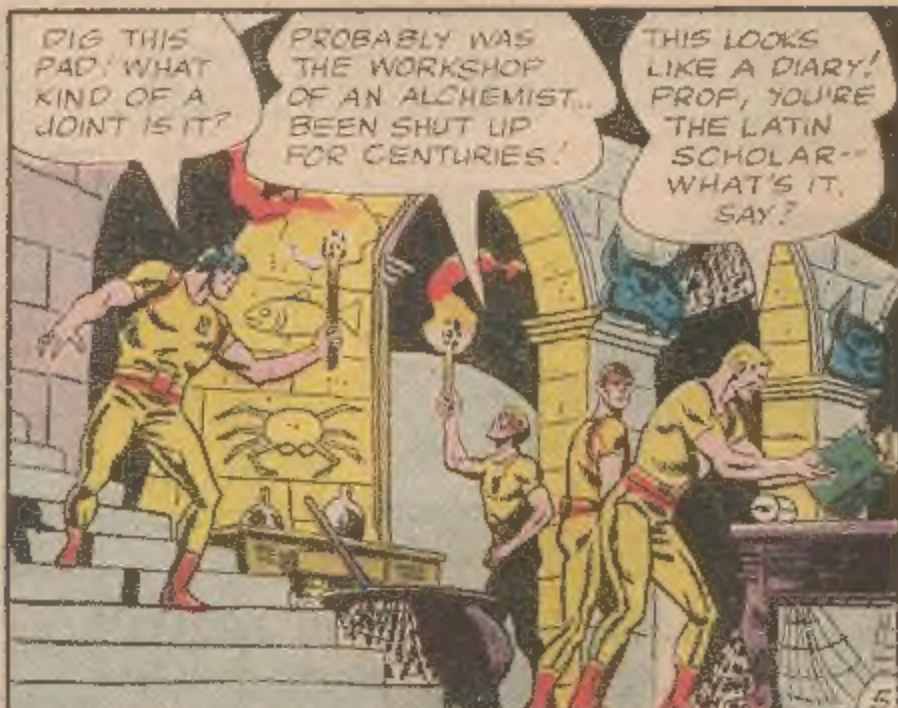
HEY--THE EYE'S
GONE! IF IT WANTED
TO STOP US, WHY
DIDN'T IT KILL US?
LIKE COUNT
DRAGIO?

I'LL BET IT BLINDED US SO WE COULDN'T
SEE WHERE IT WENT-- MAYBE BACK
TO THE BOMB CRATER WHERE IT CAME
FROM! LET'S HAVE A LOOK-SEE!



LOOK WHAT'S DOWN
THERE-- A SECRET
FLIGHT OF STEPS
LEADING BELOW
THE CASTLE! THE
BOMB'S EXPLOSION
UNCOVERED IT!

WELL,
WHAT
ARE WE
WAITIN'
FOR?



DIG THIS
PAD! WHAT
KIND OF A
JOINT IS IT?

PROBABLY WAS
THE WORKSHOP
OF AN ALCHEMIST...
BEEN SHUT UP
FOR CENTURIES!

THIS LOOKS
LIKE A DIARY!
PROF, YOU'RE
THE LATIN
SCHOLAR--
WHAT'S IT,
SAY?

IT SEEMS THE ALCHEMIST WAS IN THE SERVICE OF COUNT LORENZO DRAGIO, IN THE YEAR 1365...

YOU DID THIS TO ME! YOU HAVE LOOKED AT ME WITH THE **EVIL EYE!** TOMORROW-- AT DAWN-- YOU WILL DIE!

"BUT THAT VERY NIGHT, THE OLD ALCHEMIST ESCAPED, AND SLIPPED INTO THIS SECRET WORKSHOP UNDER THE DRAGIO CASTLE!"

COUNT DRAGIO ACCUSED ME OF MENACING HIM WITH THE EVIL EYE, SO MY REVENGE MUST BE WITH AN EYE-- A **SUPERNATURAL EYE!**

"ONE DAY, THE COUNT FELL ILL! SUPERSTITIOUS LIKE MOST PEOPLE OF THE MIDDLE AGES, HE BELIEVED HIS SICKNESS WAS CAUSED BY AN ENEMY..."

"COMBINING BLACK MAGIC AND ALCHEMY, HE CREATED A MONSTROUS **EYE** THAT WOULD OBEY ONLY HIS COMMANDS..."

I SHALL RELEASE THE **EYE** AT DAWN! IT SHALL BE COUNT DRAGIO WHO DIES... HE AND HIS KINSMEN-- UHH... MY HEART--!

IT'S OBVIOUS--THE ALCHEMIST DIED AT HIS WORK-- AND THE **EYE** REMAINED IN ITS TRANCE-LIKE STATE UNTIL THE BOMB EXPLOSION FREED IT!

NOW IT'S CARRYING OUT HIS COMMAND--AFTER 600 YEARS! THAT'S WHY IT KILLED COUNT MARIO DRAGIO! THE ALCHEMIST GIMMICKED THE **EYE** TO SPOT A DRAGIO INSTINCTIVELY!

YES, AND THE **EYE** HAS BEEN PROGRAMMED TO KILL THE NEXT DRAGIO TO INHERIT THE TITLE!

COUNT MARIO NEVER MARRIED, SO I DON'T KNOW WHO'S NEXT IN LINE! WE'D BETTER CHECK THE FAMILY TREE--AND FAST! THE **EYE** MUST'VE GONE AFTER ANOTHER DRAGIO!

SHORTLY AFTER THE CHALLENGERS CONSULTED A BOOK ON GENEALOGY--

HE'S THE FAMILY BLACK SHEEP--BELONGS TO A FASCIST ORGANIZATION!

HIS BUTLER SAID HE'S AT A MEETING IN THE CITY! WE MAY STILL BE ABLE TO SAVE THAT MUSSOLINI-MIMIC!



SUDDENLY, A SHAFT OF EERIE POWER KNIFED THROUGH THE AIR.

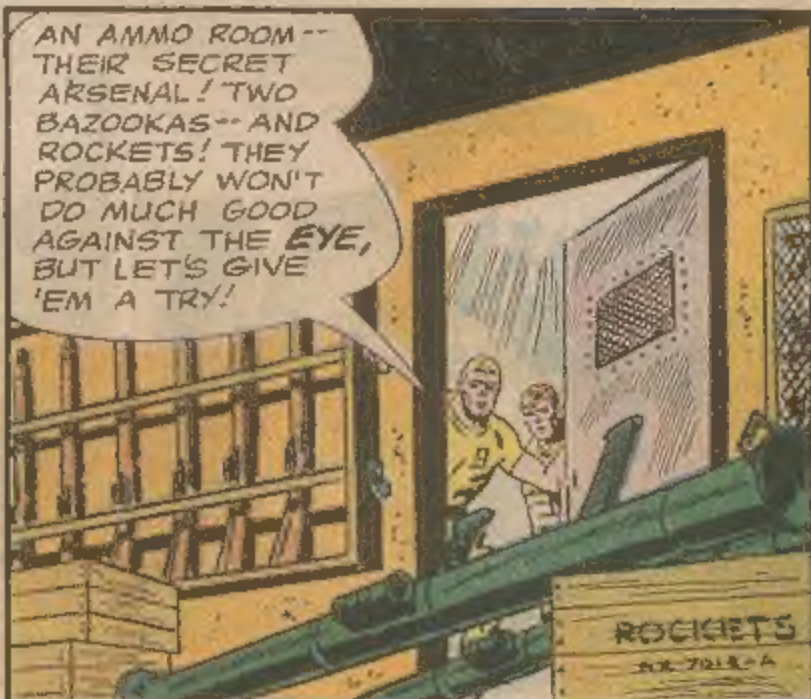




LOOK! A GIANT EYE!

THAT'S WHAT MUST HAVE KILLED DRAGIO!

RUN! RUN!



AN AMMO ROOM-- THEIR SECRET ARSENAL! TWO BAZOOKAS-- AND ROCKETS! THEY PROBABLY WON'T DO MUCH GOOD AGAINST THE EYE, BUT LET'S GIVE 'EM A TRY!

ROCKETS
RX 7218-A



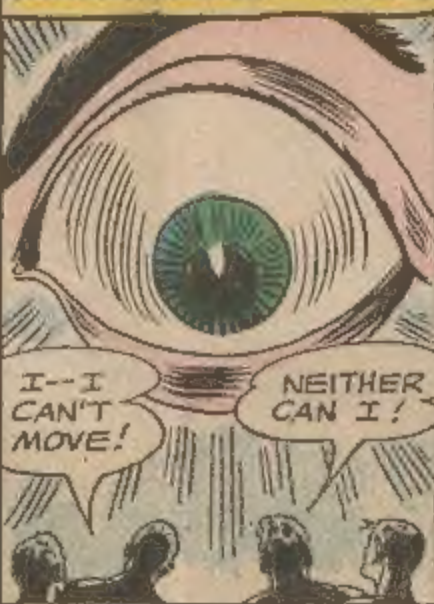
MOMENTS LATER...

GO, MAN, GO!



THAT HEAT BE M- AGAIN! NOW I KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO HAVE SOMEONE LOOK AT YOU WITH BLAZING EYES!

THE EYE MOVED CLOSER, STARING AT THE CHALLENGERS-- STARING...



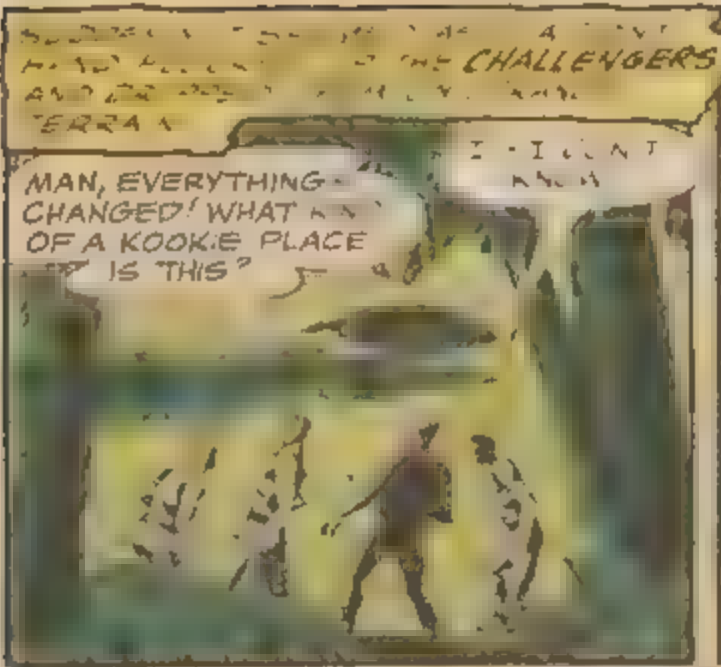
I--I CAN'T MOVE!

NEITHER CAN I!

THE CHALLENGERS STOOD THERE, ROOTED, TRANSFIXED BY THE STARING ORB...

W-WHAT'S HAPPENING TO US?



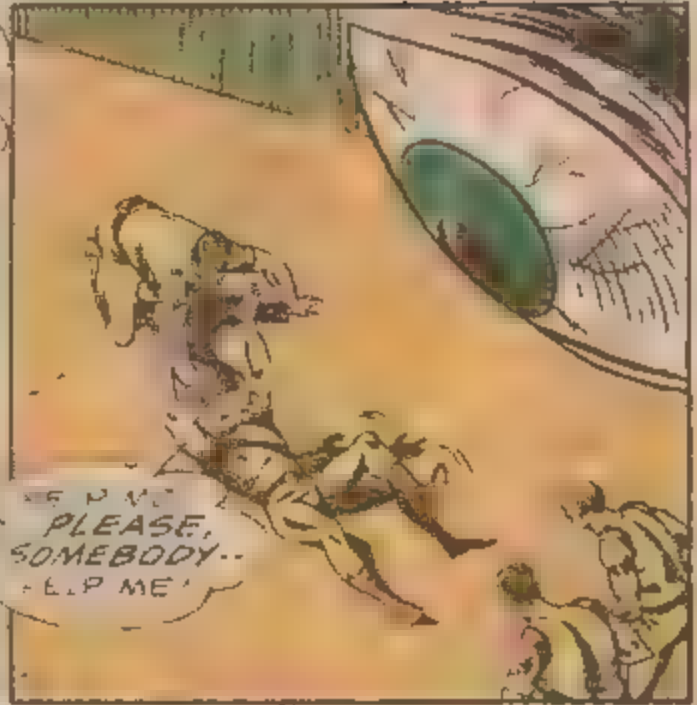




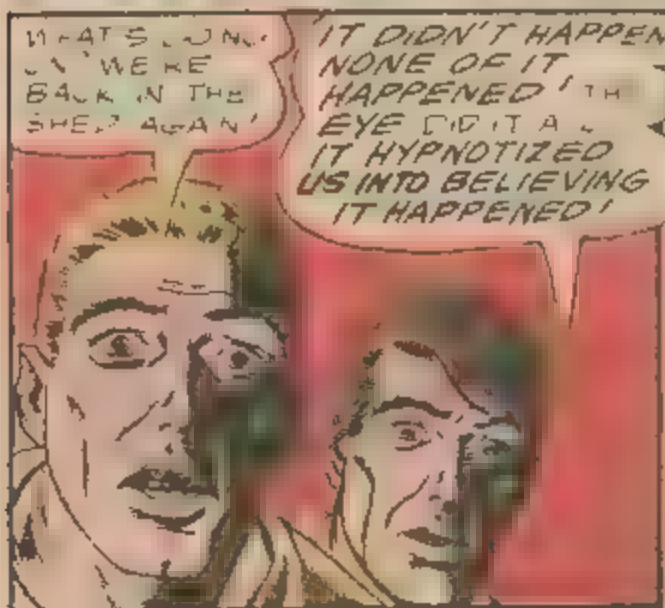
WHAT MADE ME DO IT? I KILLED RED - THE BEST FRIEND A LADY COULD HAVE

YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE TO BLAME ROCKY WE'RE ALL RESPONSIBLE TOO

HELP ME! PLEASE, SOMEBODY-- HELP ME!



PLEASE, SOMEBODY-- HELP ME!



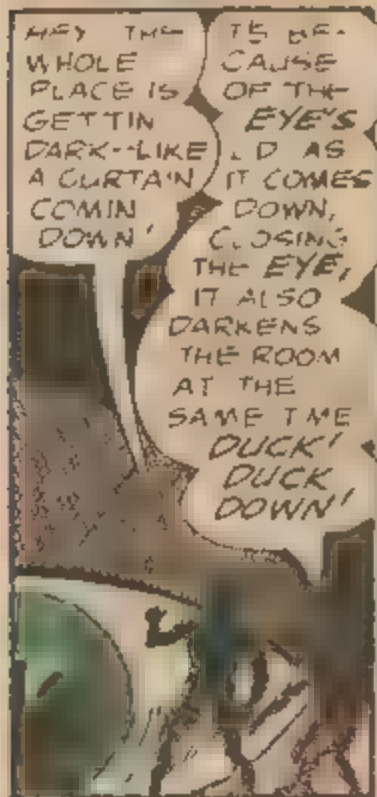
WHAT'S GOING ON? WE'RE BACK IN THE SHEEP AGAIN!

IT DIDN'T HAPPEN-- NONE OF IT HAPPENED! THE EYE DID IT ALL! IT HYPNOTIZED US INTO BELIEVING IT HAPPENED!



THE EYE WAS SHOWING US A SAMPLE OF ITS POWER - WARNING US TO STOP TRYING TO SAVE THE DRAGIOS!

IT'S LOWERING ITS LID! THE TOP OF THE ROOM IS GETTING BLACK.

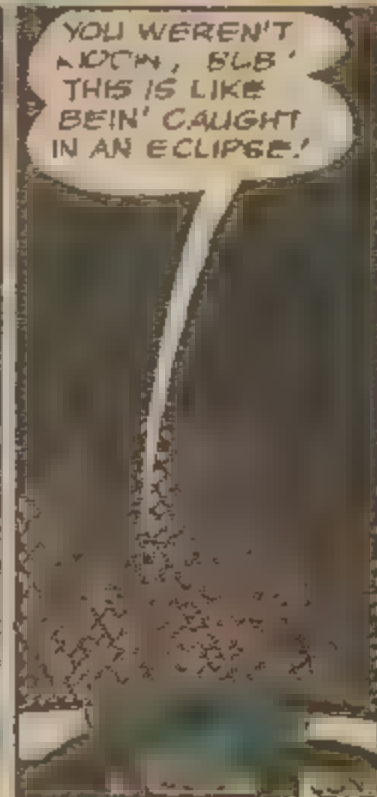


HEY THE WHOLE PLACE IS GETTIN DARK-LIKE A CURTAIN COMIN DOWN!

IT'S BECAUSE OF THE EYE'S LID AS IT COMES DOWN, CLOSING THE EYE, IT ALSO DARKENS THE ROOM AT THE SAME TIME DUCK! DUCK DOWN!



WE'LL HAVE TO GET DOWN ON THE FLOOR SO WE CAN SEE!



YOU WEREN'T ADOON, BLB! THIS IS LIKE BEIN' CAUGHT IN AN ECLIPSE!



AND THEN AS THE EYE LID CLOSED, THERE WAS COMPLETE DARKNESS...

DON'T MOVE AROUND! YOU MIGHT BUMP INTO SOMETHING!

OWCH! NOW HE TELLS ME

I'M STAYIN' PUT WHERE IT'S SAFE.

EVERYTHING WAS SO NORMAL WE COULD EVEN SEE THE EYE

EVERYTHING WAS SO NORMAL WE COULD EVEN SEE THE EYE

GET THE EYE IN LINE IT BLINDED US SO IT COULD TAKE OFF AFTER THE NEXT DRAID WE GOT TO CHECK MY ST TO THE AN H-6

THIRTY-THREE CHALLENGERS ANSWERED TO THE CALL OF OLD ANTHONY DRAID BUT

HE WENT TO THE AIRPORT HE'S FLYING TO AMERICA ON BUSINESS! HIS PLANE MUST'VE TAKEN OFF BY NOW!

THIS IS A BAD SITUATION TO GET AT DRAGIO THE EYE WILL HAVE TO INCLUDE EVERYONE ABOARD WHEN IT COMES THAT 'LOOK THAT ALLS' THERE WON'T BE A SINGLE SURVIVOR!

I'VE BEEN THINKING-- WE'VE STILL GOT A CHANCE TO SAVE THE NEXT DRAID

HOW? EVEN IF WE COULD WALK IN AN EVEN IF WE COULD CATCH UP TO HIM IN THE HOW COULD WE STOP THE EYE?

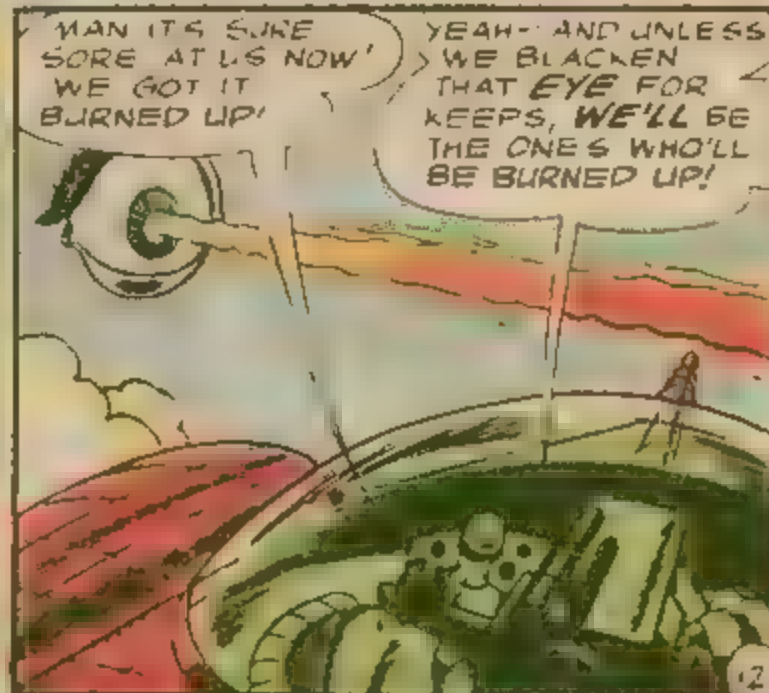
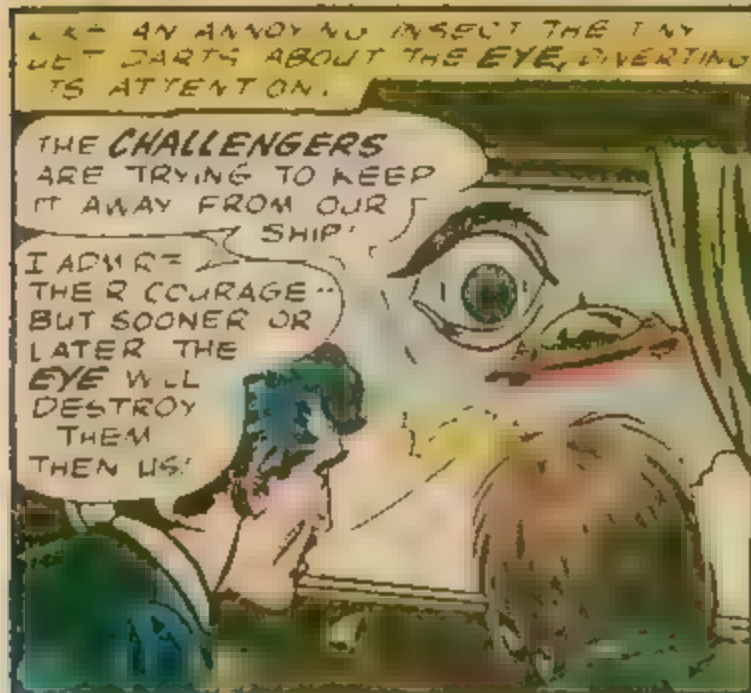
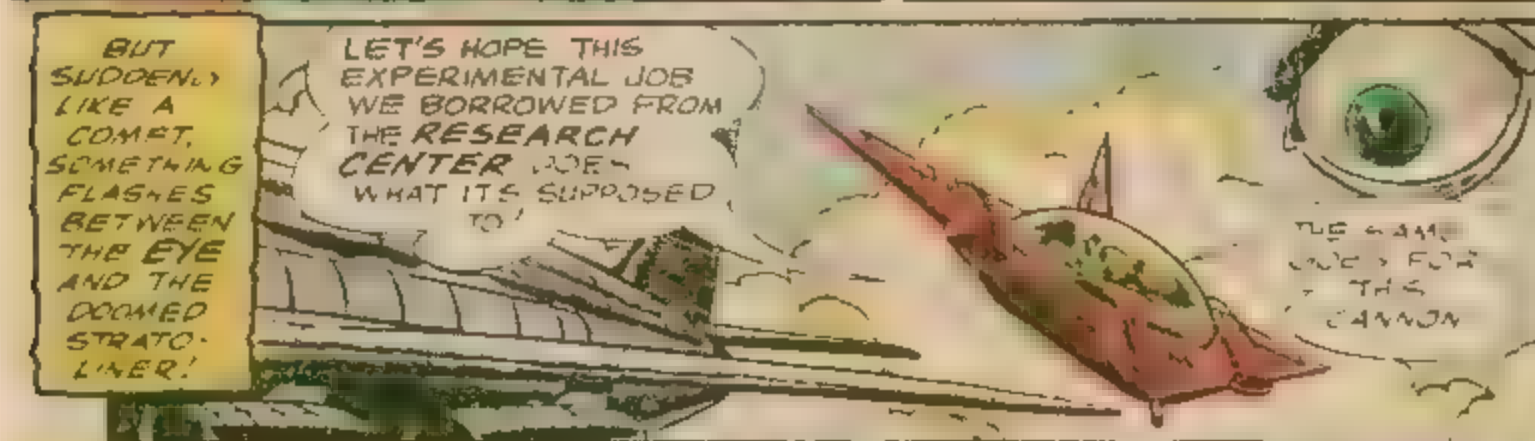
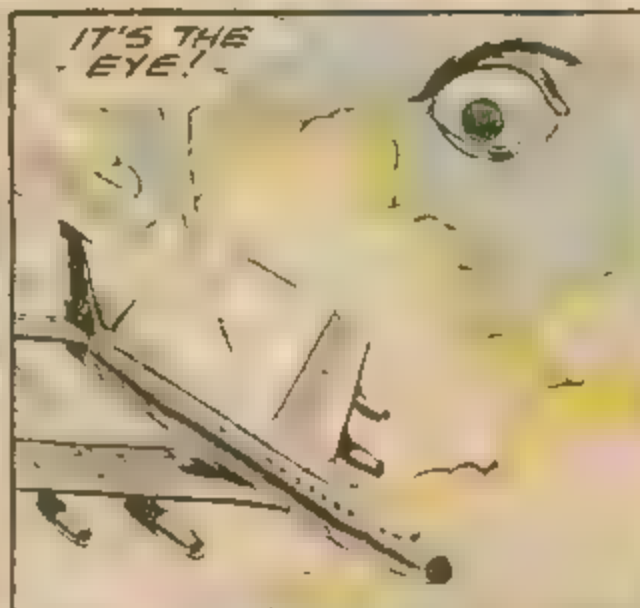
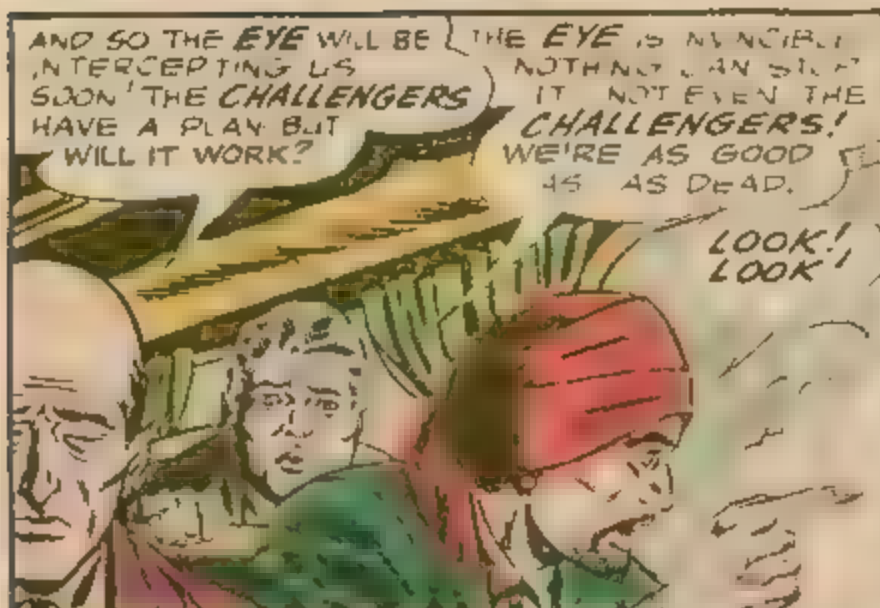
WITH SOMETHING FROM IN THERE IN INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH CENTER!

SHORTLY AFTER CONTACTED THE UN-FAITH CRAFT

YOU WANT TO SPEAK WITH A PASSENGER- ANTHONY DRAID?

AFTER ACF FREED HIM HE CAME TO HIS FELLOW-PASSENGERS

I REPEAT--THIS ENTIRE FLANE-- AND EVERYONE ON IT DOOMED--BECAUSE OF ME! A 100 YEAR OLD CURSE HAS CAUGHT UP WITH ME! LET ME EXPLAIN



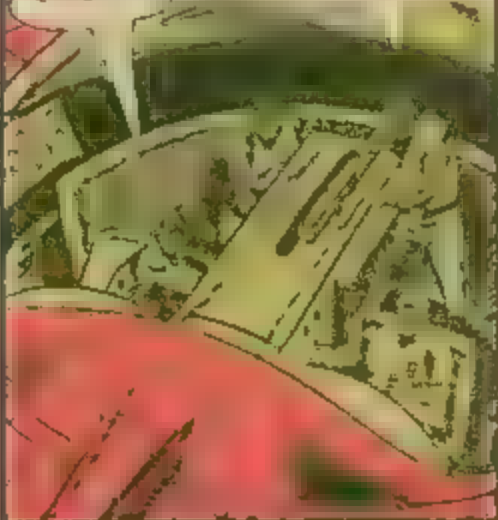
OKAY! THE
EYE'S IN
POSITION!
LINE IT UP
FOR THE
SHOT!

ALL SET!
LET 'ER
FAL -- RIGHT
ON THE
BUTTON!

ABRUPTLY A PENCIL-THIN BEAM OF LIGHT FLASHES OUT
AT FANTASY... THE EVIL EYE WIDENS IN
SHOCKED SURPRISE

...THEN ROLLS IN
ALARM

...AND FINALLY
STARES DAZED
IN UTTER DEFEAT



BEFORE PLUNGING AS A
METEOR TO ITS FATE

AS DID WE FLIGHT
ANCIENT A CHEW THE
EYE'S DEATH-LOOK--
WITH MODERN SCIENCE
THE LASER BEAM-- AND
OUR TIME WON



AND AFTER 600 YEARS THE DRAGON
WAS SAVED FROM A TERRIBLE
FATE... LONG WITH SOME STRANGERS

WE CREATED
DEATH-- JUST LIKE
THE CHALLENGERS
HAVE DONE SO MANY
TIMES

WERE WE THEM NOW
DEATH-CHEATERS?
THANKS TO THEM
WE'RE ALIVE-- BUT OUR
LIVES CAN NEVER
AGAIN BE THE SAME



INDEED, THEY NEVER WILL-- FOR FATE WILL
SOON REUNITE THEM WITH THE ORIGINAL
LEAGUE OF DEATH-CHEATERS! HOW IT
HAPPENS WILL BE REVEALED IN A FUTURE
STORY! WATCH FOR IT!

The End

I'VE PLAYED EVERY TYPE
OF PART IN THIS BOOK,
BUT **THIS** IS MY **FUNNIEST!**

in **"The TRAIL of the
MINCED SPY,"**

I'M A STEEL-NERVED, IRON-FISTED,
SHARP-EYED, BUT BIRD-BRAINED,
SECRET AGENT, TRACKING DOWN
AN INTERNATIONAL SUPER-SPY
SYNDICATE.

YOU'LL FIND PLENTY
OF SMILES, SUSPENSE, AND THE
WORLD'S KOOKIEST
CRIMINAL IN THIS
BOOK-LENGTH
COMEDY BONANZA!

ON SALE AT YOUR
FAVORITE NEWSSTAND
APRIL 8th!



CHALLENGERS' MAIL CHUTE



Dear Editor: Readers who were fascinated by that red snow sequence in "Rocky, the Genius Challenger" and those cynics who scoffed at such a notion would be interested, I'm sure, in a recent article in a prominent national magazine. There IS such a thing as red snow! In the far, far north of Spitsbergen—Iceland and Alaska are south of it; it's 700 miles away from the North Pole—there are "white coal mines" (white inside from ice crystals) and sometimes red snow from strange algae that lie atop it! —David Quincey, New Haven, Conn.

Dear Editor: Both stories in CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN No. 42 were great. "The League of Challenger-Haters" is a terrific team of villains second only to "The Brotherhood of Evil," which appears in THE DOOM PATROL. This story, which introduced them, was so good, it ended too quickly for me. —David Eddings, President of the Houston, Texas Fan Club.

To David, Richard Walls of Des Moines, Ia.; Jimmy Ferguson of Alma, Kans., and hundreds of others who wrote, telling us about their excited reactions, the good news is that "The League of Challenger-Haters" will be back—perhaps in the next issue in a full-book-length spectacular, "Queen of the Challenger-Haters." And the unique villains will be joined by none other than that monumental threat—Multi-Woman! Make a note to get your copy!

CHIT-CHAT FROM THE MAIL CHUTE: Before we're deluged with letters, let's explain the smaller emblem which appears on the chest of the CHALLENGER's uniform. The hour glass is a symbol, of course, of time running out for our heroes. When they decided to retain the uniforms they'd been awarded in "The Haunted Island," they didn't necessarily have to keep them intact, and so it was at Ace's suggestion that they modified them slightly. Sharp-eyed readers will notice that in addition to the reduced hour-glass emblems, the sleeves at the shoulders also have been slightly modified.

An interesting letter from Alfred Cole, Woody Seward, Billy and David Gilbert, all of Mascotte, Fla., describes their pursuit of a 'gator by motor boat and their attempt to shoot it with a .22. Alfred also added a postscript about his new dachshund pup, which he named "Little Prof" after you-know-who! . . . Donna Springman of Woodstock, Ill., offers this story idea

to our writers. "Suppose one of the CHALLENGERS was killed, and two of the remaining CHALLENGERS blamed his death on the third? What would happen then?" Sure, what would happen, Donna? Not a bad idea, though, and we'll pass it along to our staff of scribes.

Billy McKinnon of Houston, Tex., wants us to know that Prof is his favorite CHALLENGER and hopes to see the team using their "special super-power suits" again. Most likely, they will be dressed in their special gear in a few scenes in the aforementioned "Queen of the Challenger-Haters" . . . Paul Richard Dushkind of Plainview, N.Y., wants our team to battle "inhuman elements" and not mortal villains.

The best of luck to Bob Butts of South Bend, Ind. who becomes editor and publisher of the fan magazine "Comickdom" . . . From Arlington, Va., comes an enthusiastic note penned by Jimmy Dooley, who announces that he's the president of a newly-organized Fan Club. Vice-president is Bill Montgomery and secretary, Neil Montgomery. Members will receive cards, take a pledge, and be expected to attend meetings every Saturday afternoon. Those interested can write Jimmy at 2112 So. Buchanan St. . . . Alice Kay Tooney of Hampton, Va., acquaints us with the news that Prof resembles her boyfriend Lawrence, and hopes that we don't change the CHALLENGERS' facial appearance now that we've altered their uniforms.

Interesting comments also received from F. Garille, Levittown, N.Y., and David Maynard of Sudbury Ont. . . . Aside to Stuart Salchow of Dearborn, Mich.: We thought the whole world knew, by now, that the CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN is drawn by William R. (Bob) Brown, and written by a staff that includes France Ed Herron, Arnold Drake, and Bill Finger!

Have you taken advantage of our big-bargain subscription offer? See the advertisement elsewhere in this issue for all the details!

Address all letters and post cards to CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN, National Periodic Co., 575 Lexington Avenue, New York 22, N.Y.

LITTLE

PETE

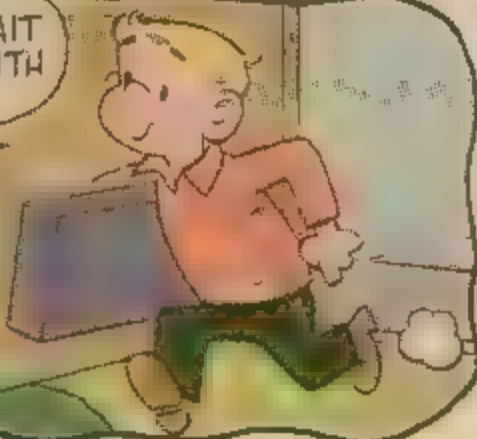
HENRY
BOLTHOFF



HERE'S THAT TRIK-TRAK
ROAD RALLY SET I
PROMISED YOU,
PETE!

WOW!
THANKS.

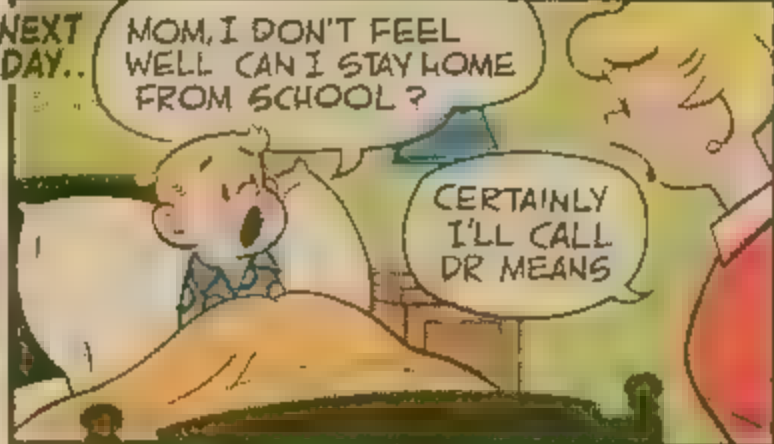
I CAN'T WAIT
TO PLAY WITH
IT!



NEXT
DAY..

MOM, I DON'T FEEL
WELL. CAN I STAY HOME
FROM SCHOOL?

CERTAINLY
I'LL CALL
DR MEANS



THANK YOU
FOR COMING
OVER SO
SOON,
DOCTOR.



AND

HE'S NOT SICK. HE JUST WANTED
AN EXCUSE TO PLAY
WITH HIS NEW
ROAD RALLY SET.
IT'S TERRIFIC!



Ship ahoy...
what a toy!

Silly Putty

floats--
when shaped into
boats!

(also bounces, stretches
and picks up comics!)

Silly Putty!

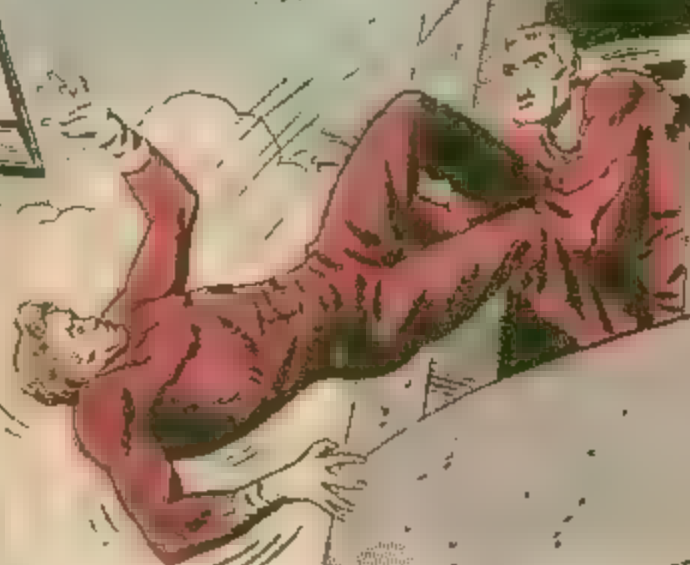
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CHALLENGER CASEBOOK

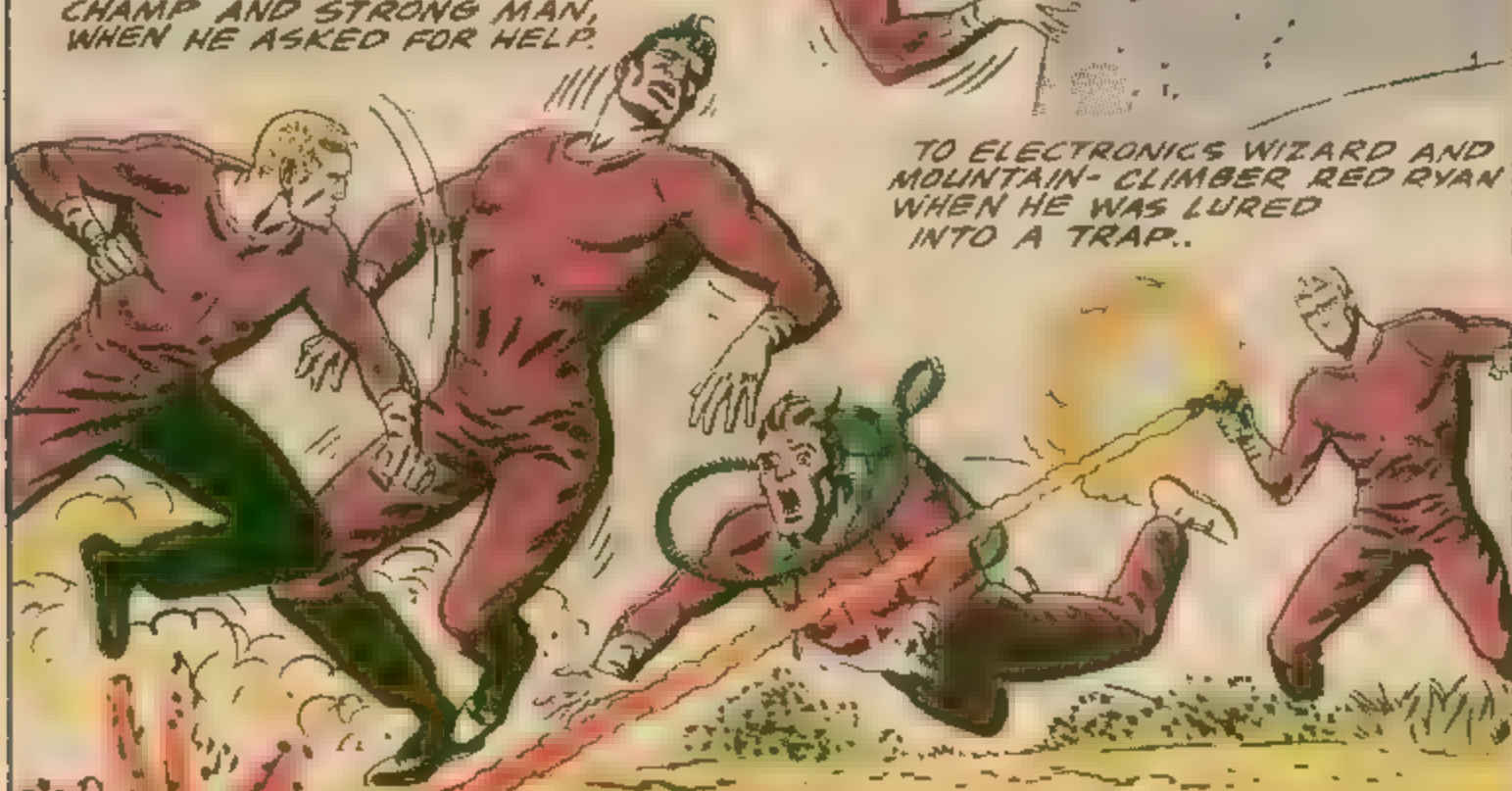
UNTOLD TALES FROM THE
DEATH-CHEATERS' SECRET FILE

THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED

TO ROCKY DAVIS, WRESTLING
CHAMP AND STRONG MAN,
WHEN HE ASKED FOR HELP.



TO ELECTRONICS WIZARD AND
MOUNTAIN-CLIMBER RED RYAN
WHEN HE WAS LURED
INTO A TRAP..



TO PROF HALEY, SCHOLAR AND
DEEP SEA-DIVING EXPERT, WHO
PREFERRED TO FLEE RATHER THAN FIGHT.

ACE--THE CHALLENGER WHO WENT BAD!

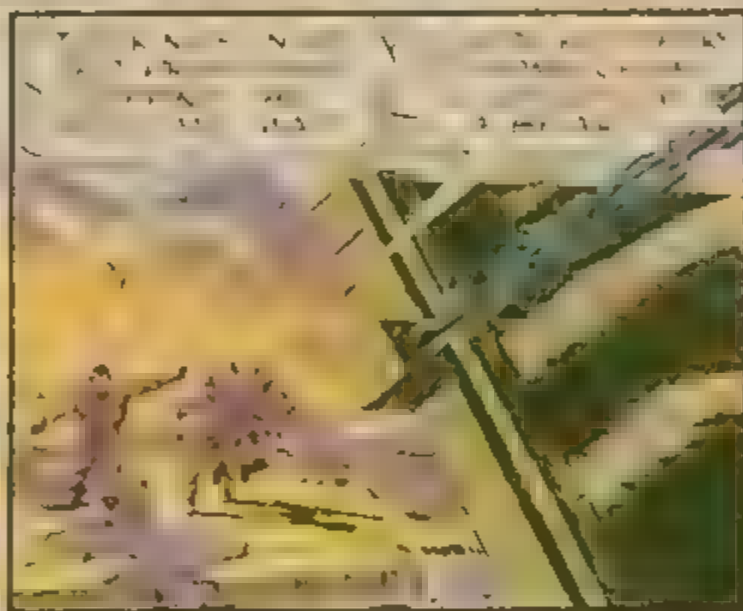
THEY WERE INSEPARABLE, THIS FAMOUS TEAM THAT SHARED A BOND STRONGER
THAN BROTHERHOOD! THEIR BATTLE CREDO WAS "ONE FOR ALL, ALL FOR ONE." IF
THEY MUST, THEY WOULD WILLINGLY DIE FOR ONE ANOTHER! BUT NOW,
SUDDENLY ONE TURNED ON HIS TEAMMATES AND IN A "SILENT, STEP-BY-
STEP PLAN, VOWED TO DESTROY THEM ALL"

"THE VALLEY OF DEATH," WHERE ALL VEGETATION REPORTEDLY

VIEW, LA...
THE
CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN

WAY OUT.

A GASEOUS ODOR
THIS DYING PLANT



YEOW!
BULL!

IT WAS LIKE
THEY DON'T
LET YOUR
GUESS
MIGHT



GREEN
GAS...



WHATTA YOU
WORRIED ABOUT



DID YOU HA HA, SEE WHAT ACE LET
D TO ROCKY, PRETTY M BEAT
THE BRAINS OUT OF HIM HA, HA, HA
ACE HAS FLIPPED!

THERE MUST BE
A REASON FOR
HIS DOING THAT!
HA, HA, HA! ACE
WOULDN'T TURN
ON A BUDDY
HA, HA!

FOR SOME REASON
OR OTHER I MUST
BE IN IT HA HA
HA HA HA

HEE, HEE,
HA, HA!

NEVER HAD A TRICK
WORE HERE AND HERE A PART

BACK

FOR BOTH
OF YOU!

AS THE STUNNED PAR DROPS
BEADY EYES OBSERVE FROM
ABOVE...

THE CHALLENGER
CALLED ACE
HIS ACTIONS
AGAINST HIS
TEAMMATES
APPEAR
HOSTILE BUT
I DON'T
TRUST HIM,
GAS MASTER!

I DO
AAB-
AND I'LL
TELL YOU WHY
WHEN HE FLEW
DOWN TO LAND
HIS COPTER
PASSED THROUGH
A CLOUD OF
GAS SEEPAGE

I'M SURE THAT JUMBLED
MIXTURE OF GASES HAD
THE SAME EFFECT
UPON HIS MIND AS THE
WAR GAS S-4*. HE
REGARDS HIS FRIENDS
AS HIS ENEMIES...
AND VICE VERSA

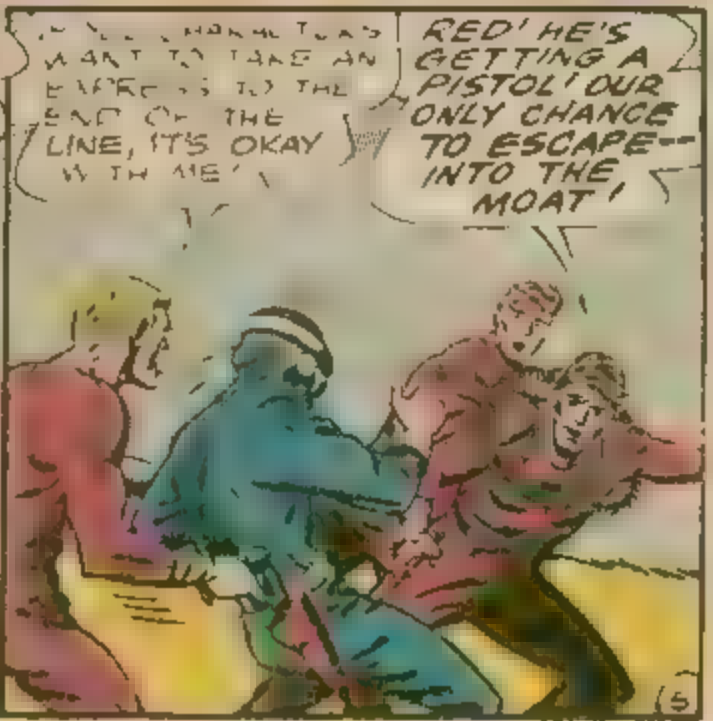
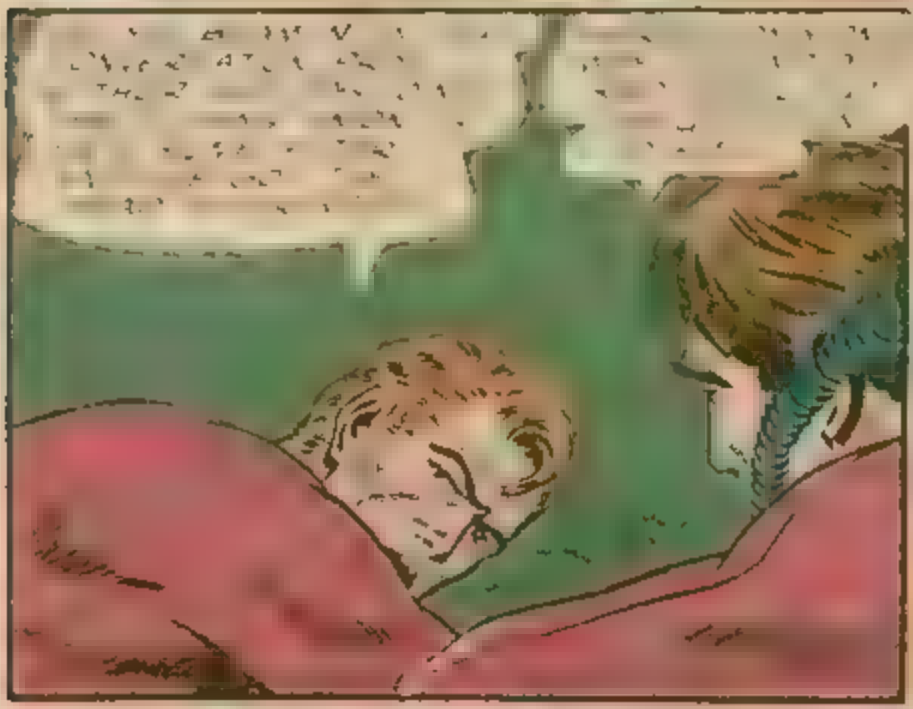
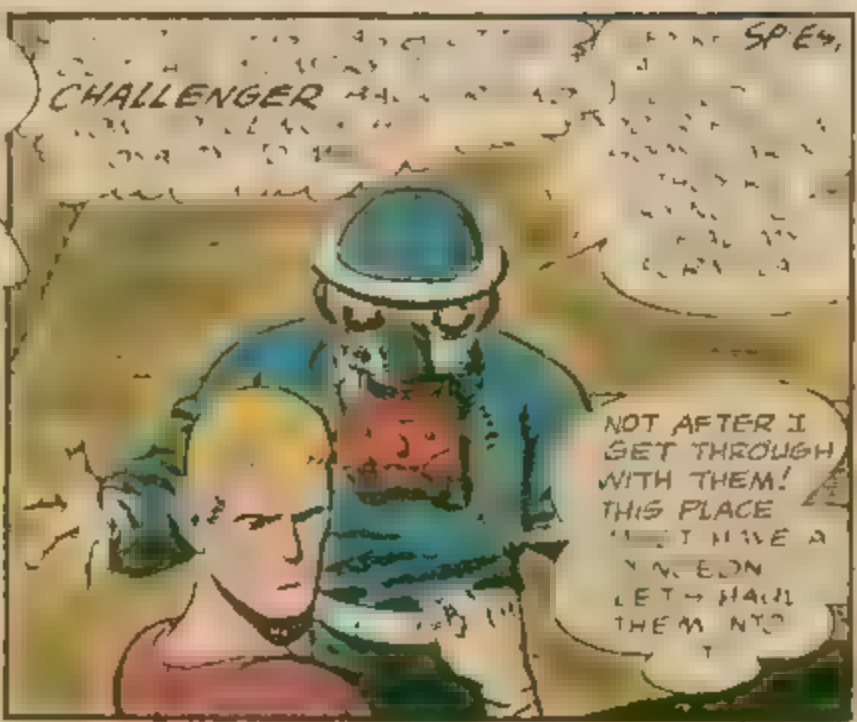
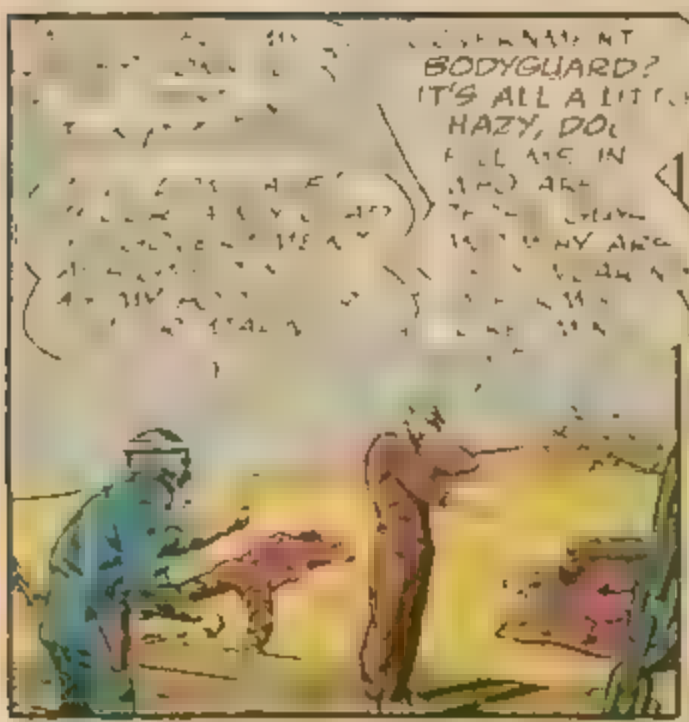


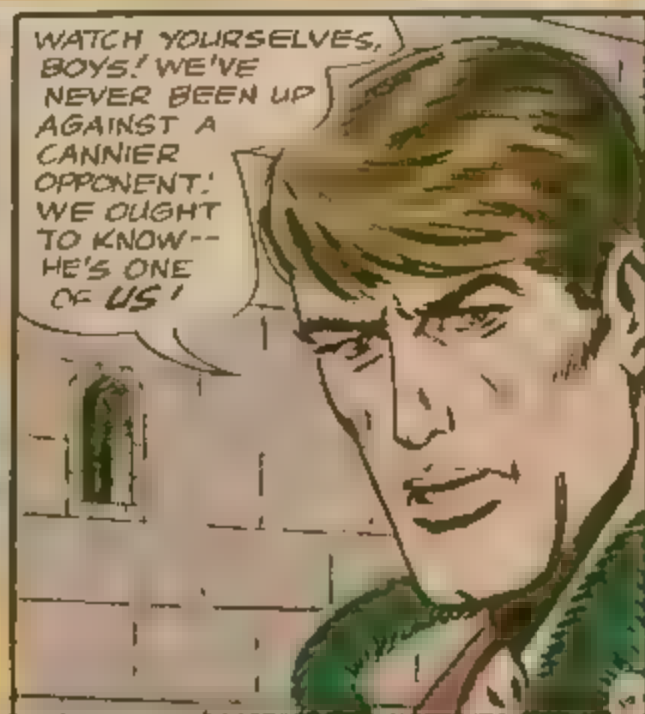
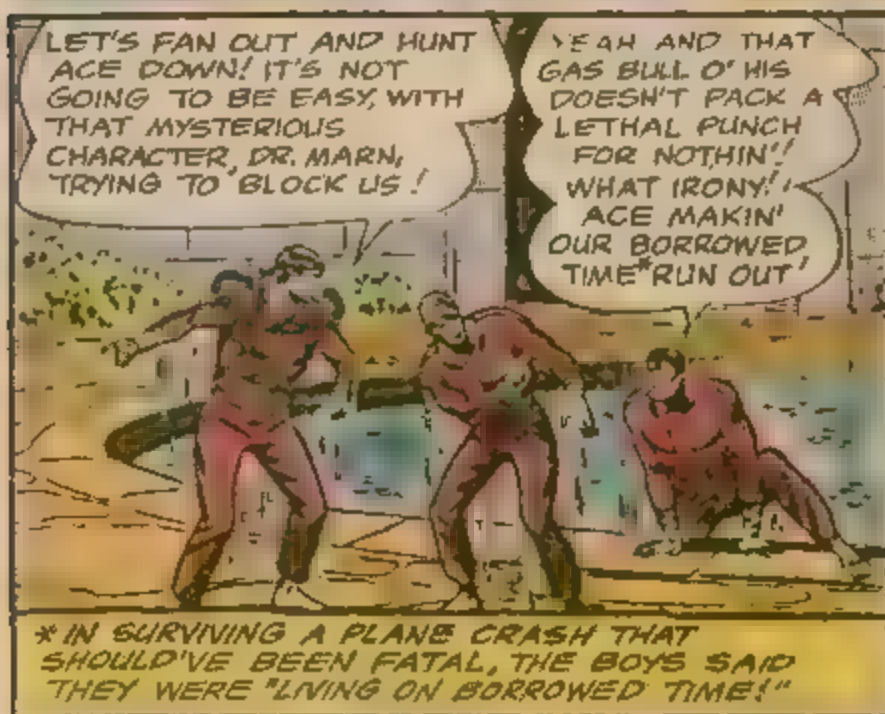
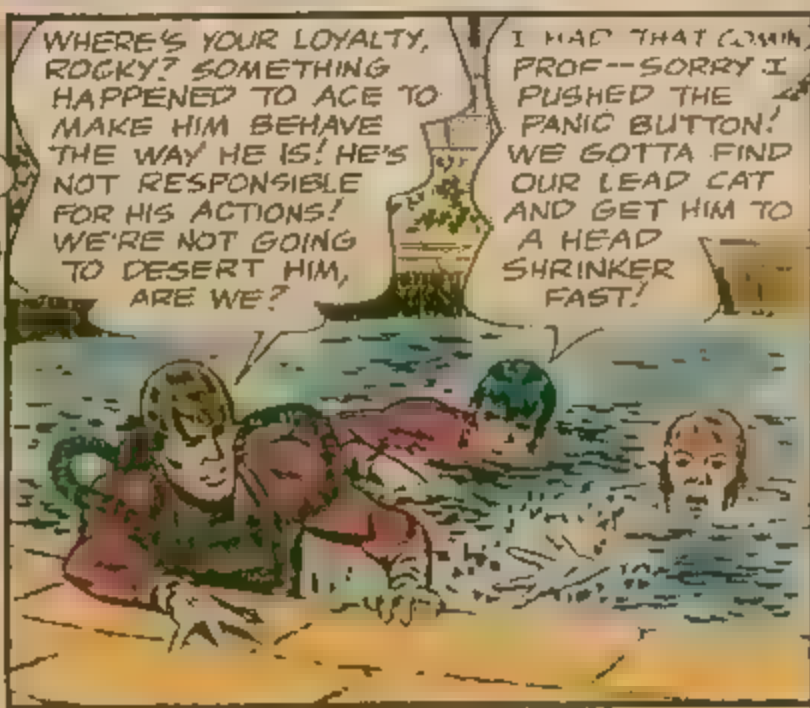
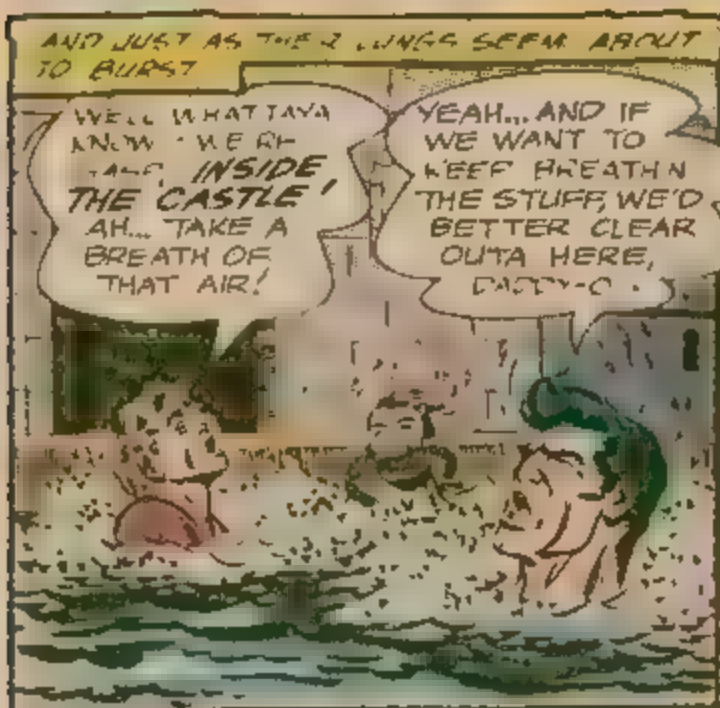
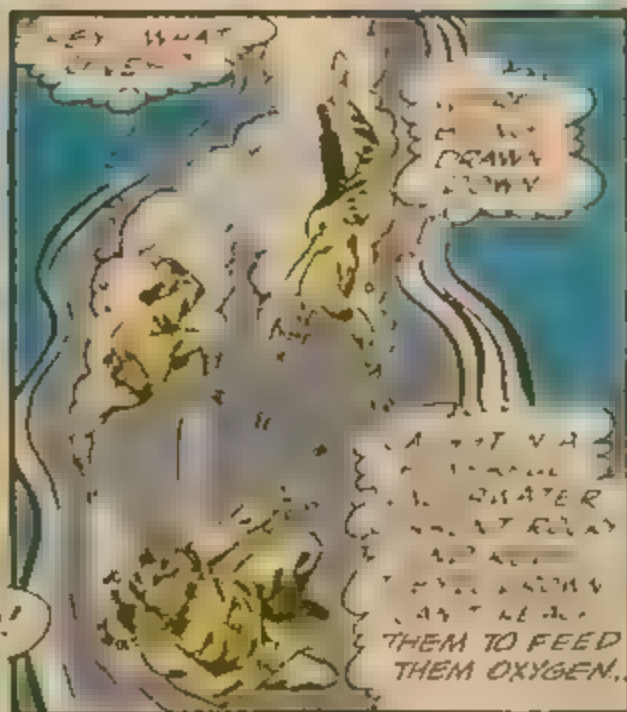
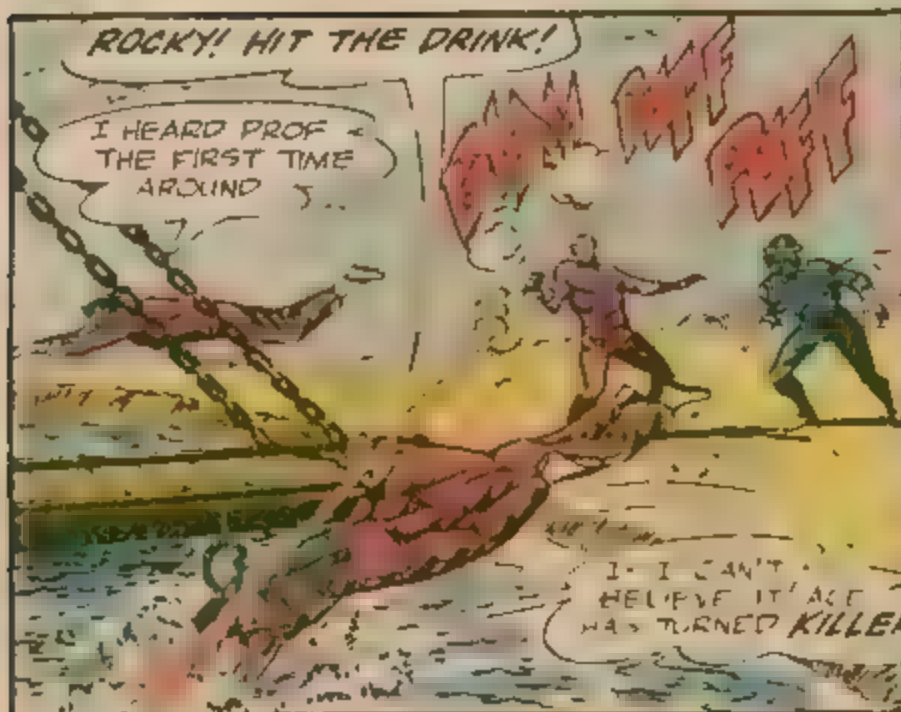
* A TOP-SECRET GAS DE-
VELOPED BY THE MILITARY
TO CREATE HALLUCINATIONS.
IT HAS NEVER BEEN USED

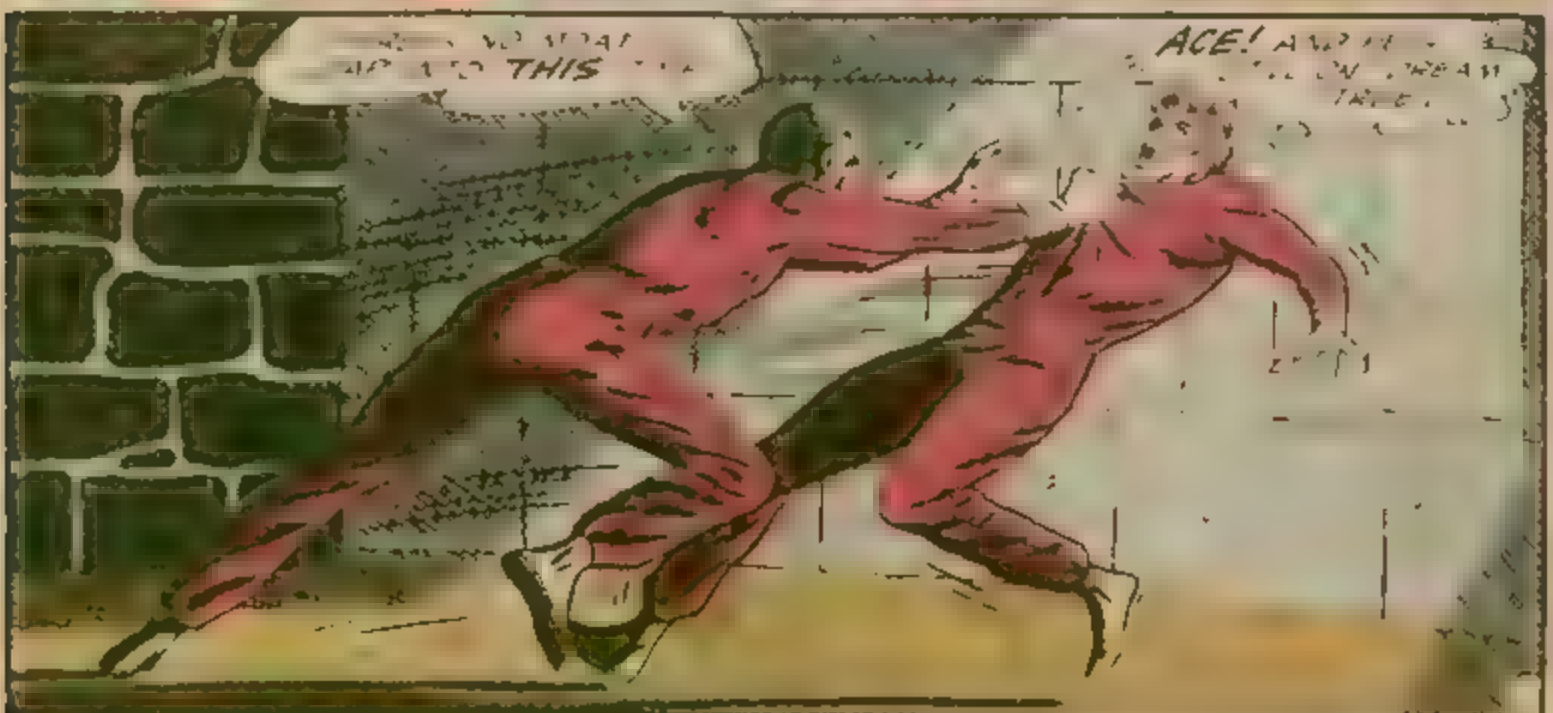
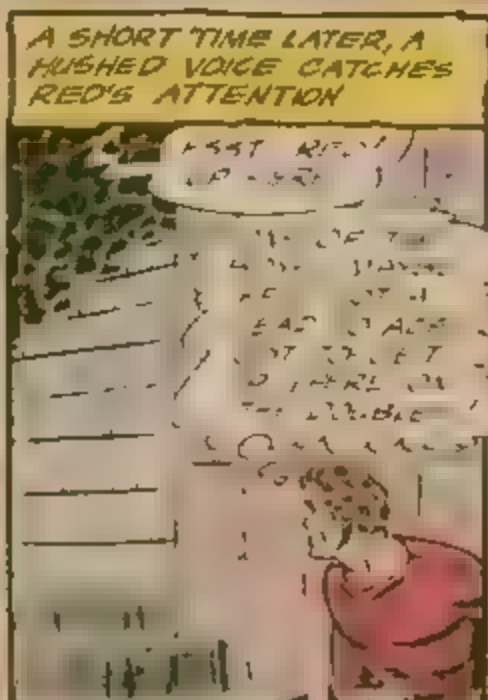
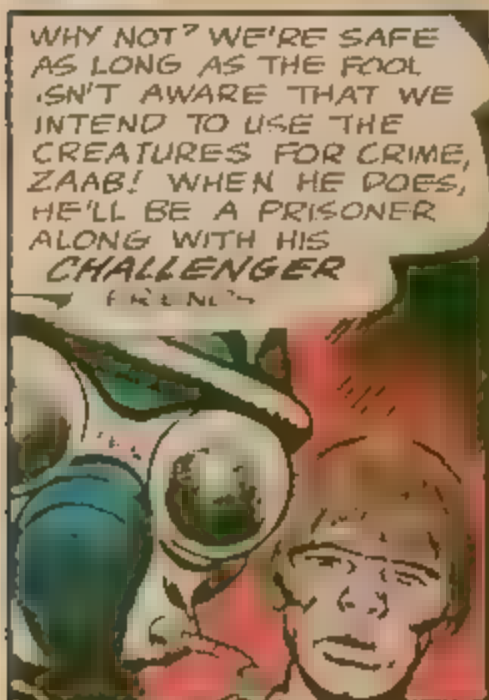
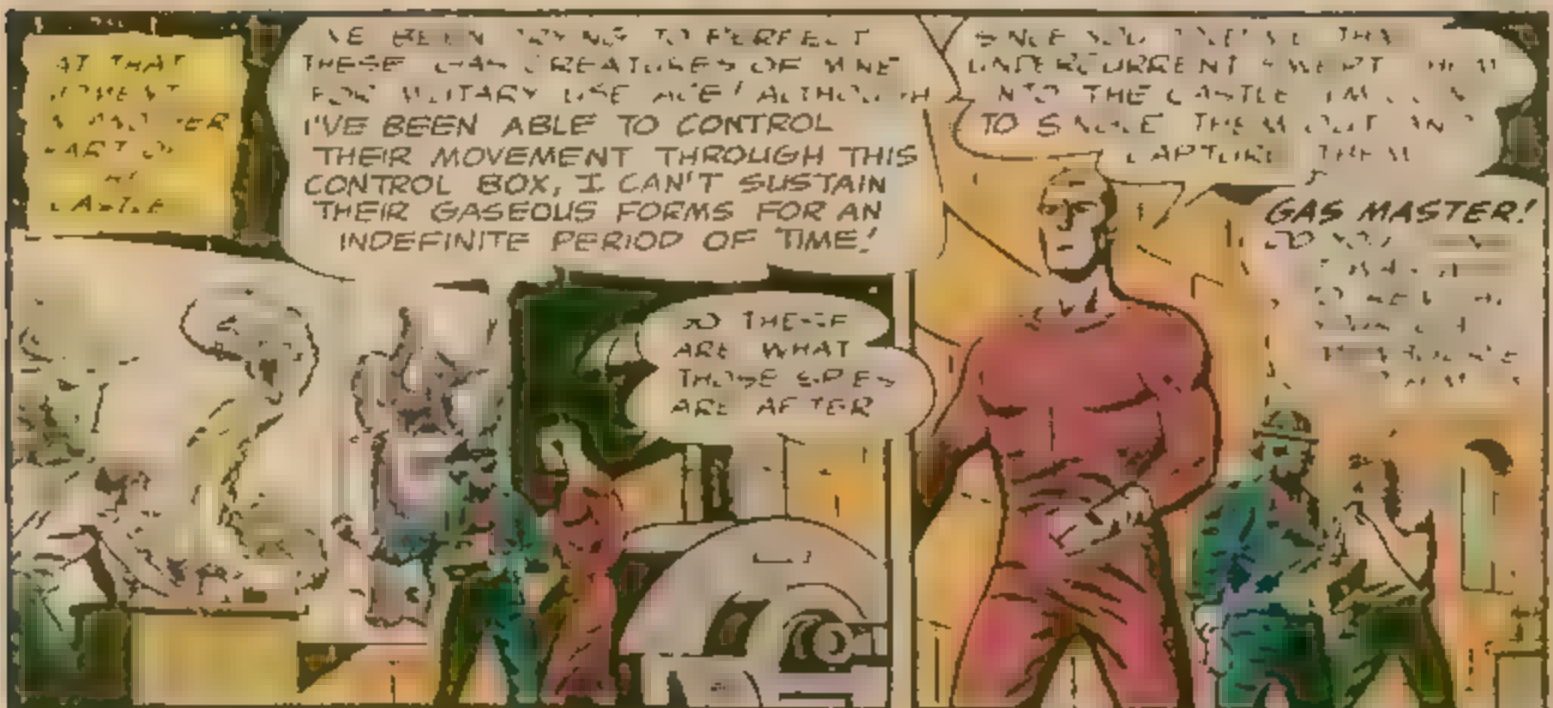
IF MY ASSUMPTION IS
CORRECT - AND I'M SURE
IT IS - I SHOULDN'T BE
DIFFICULT TO HAVE ACE
CAPTURED BY HIS FRIENDS.
THEN WE WILL HAVE
FOUR EXCELLENT
PHYSICAL SPECIMENS
ON WHICH TO TEST THE
GASES WE HAVE
DEVELOPED...

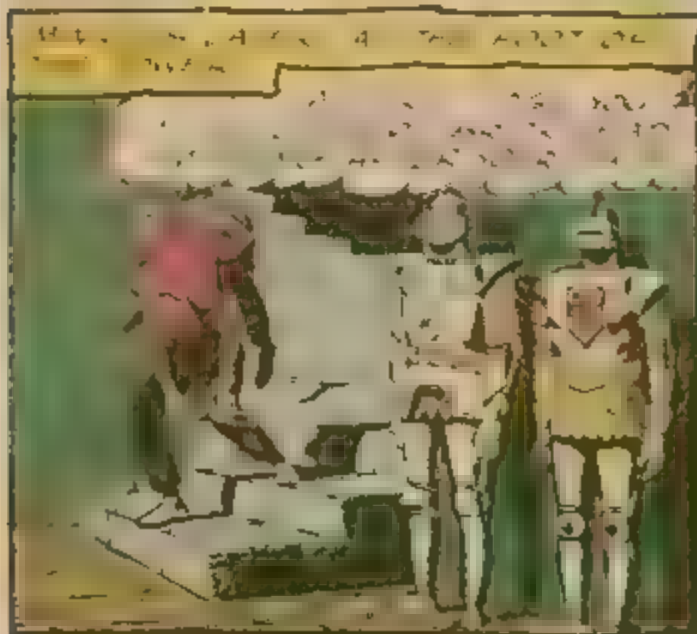
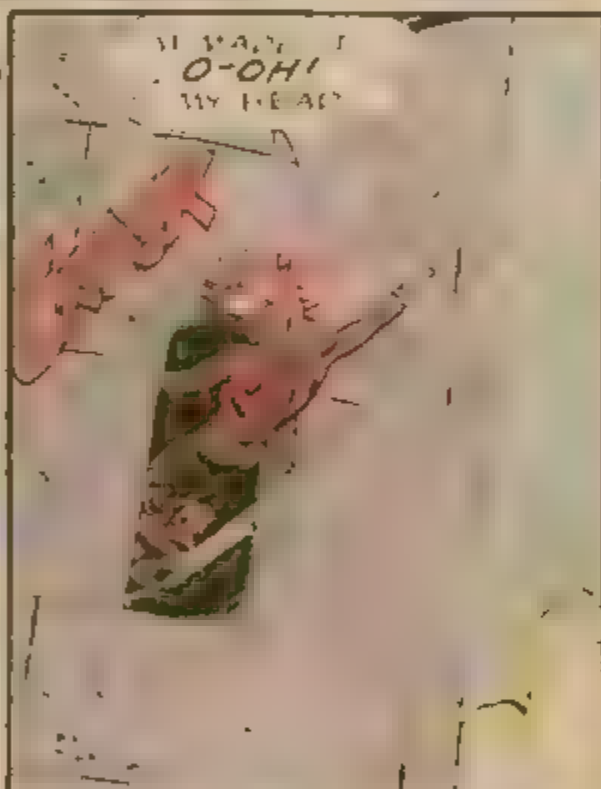
LL KEEP
YOU
COVERED
GAS
MASTER!











PROF! I'VE BEEN HALLOWEEN MASH BACK AGAIN! HIT THE ROAD!

HE WENT WITH YOU AND A NEW AN I'VE THE MUSH-NEED AT HAND? OR AT THE END OF MY F...

OH! HE'S OPENING FIRE! THE CHASE WILL END RIGHT HERE! I'VE GOT A...

...AGAIN-- BUT IT WON'T WORK THIS TIME

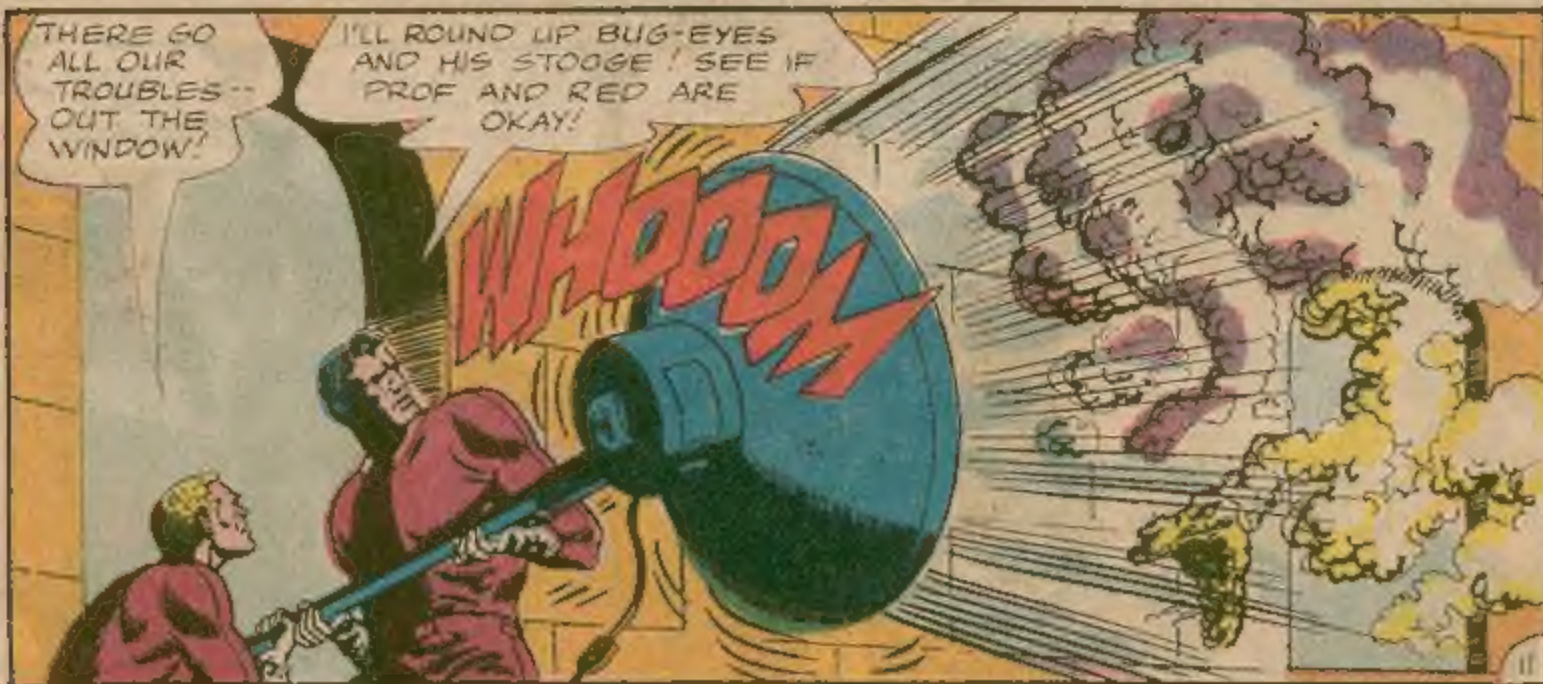
...I'LL TRACK HIM DOWN WITH HIS OWN DIVIN... I'LL NAIL TH...

...AS MASTER'S

CHALLENGERS! LET'S SEE HOW OUR STRANGE, NEW ALLY IS DOING

...IT AIL... WALK... A...







I SHOULD'VE BEEN ALERT FOR A DOUBLE-CROSS! I'LL NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF FOR HAVING BEEN SO GULLIBLE!

DON'T BLAME YOURSELF COMPLETELY! I HAD A LITTLE HELP—QUITE BY ACCIDENT...



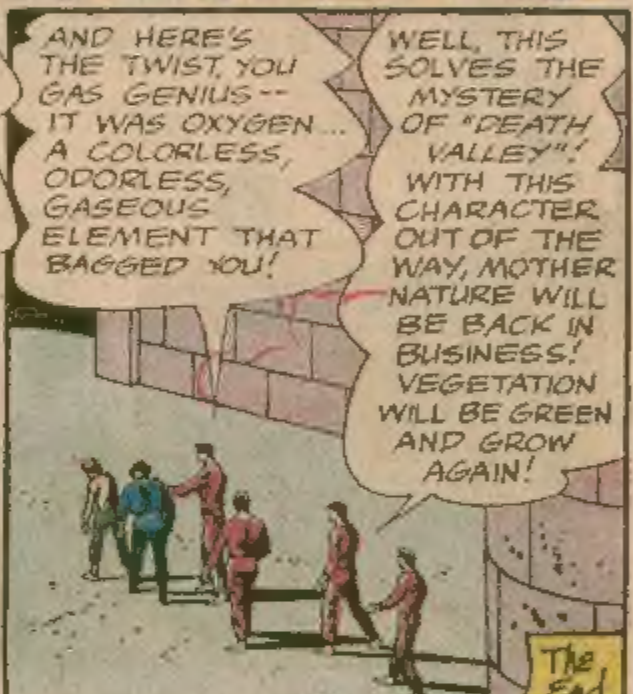
"IT HAPPENED WHEN I USED PROF'S DIVING GEAR TO PURSUE HIM..."

M-MY HEAD IS CLEARING UP! WHAT AM I DOING DOWN HERE...? SEEMS LIKE I'M CHASING PROF...



YOU SEE, THE COMPRESSED OXYGEN ACE WAS INHALING FROM THE TANK COUNTERACTED THE EFFECT THE OTHER GAS HAD ON HIS BRAIN!

BY THE TIME I SURFACED, I WAS MYSELF AGAIN! PROF AND I MADE CONTACT WITH THE OTHER BOYS AND STAGED THAT COURTYARD BATTLE!



AND HERE'S THE TWIST, YOU GAS GENIUS-- IT WAS OXYGEN... A COLORLESS, ODORLESS, GASEOUS ELEMENT THAT BAGGED YOU!

WELL, THIS SOLVES THE MYSTERY OF "DEATH VALLEY"! WITH THIS CHARACTER OUT OF THE WAY, MOTHER NATURE WILL BE BACK IN BUSINESS! VEGETATION WILL BE GREEN AND GROW AGAIN!

The End



HELP! HELP!

I'M **TRAPPED** INSIDE THE BRAIN OF AN EIGHT-YEAR-OLD **MONSTER!** YOU HEARD ME RIGHT, KIDDIES! A CRAZY OLD WITCH PUT ME IN THERE, AND I CAN'T GET OUT! IF YOU WANT TO GET ALL THE DETAILS, READ MY LATEST ISSUE!

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